

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING GALENA TRAIN DERAILMENT FIRST RESPONDERS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the first responders who helped to control and contain the fire caused by the recent train derailment in Galena, IL on March 5, 2015. These brave citizens responded to the derailment quickly and performed their duties flawlessly. Thanks to their bravery and hard work, the fire was ultimately contained, and disaster was averted. The state of Wisconsin thanks them for their courage and service.

On March 5, 2015, a Burlington Northern Santa Fe train derailed in Galena, Illinois, and started a fire in a rural area near the city. Firefighters from Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin responded to help control and contain the fire. Wisconsin fire departments from Cuba City, Darlington, Dickeyville, Hazel Green, Jamestown, Lancaster, and Platteville participated in the incident response. After arriving on the scene, first responders assessed the situation and enacted procedures to control the derailment. Their response was successful, the incident was contained, and crisis was averted.

Every day, firefighters and other first responders go to work prepared to confront our most dangerous situations. These brave men and women are on the front lines, protecting our communities from disaster. Today, I recognize these courageous first responders and thank them for their service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILLY CASPER

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, San Diego has produced many sports heroes over the years. Rarely, a champion appears on the sports scene whose character and personal impact on others transcends his athletic accomplishments. Billy Casper was such a man.

Billy is known for his 51 victories on the professional golf tour, the seventh most in golf history. But I can tell you as a friend of Billy's, he was more than that; he radiated goodness and friendship. When Billy played, the game itself was secondary. Everyone just wanted to be around Billy and the love of his life, Shirley. And Billy Casper was "G" rated in the same sense as Roy Rogers. To put it simply, you could bring your kids to a Billy Casper event.

Billy's life was that of a San Diego legend. Billy elected to stay in San Diego when his mom announced she was moving to Los Angeles with her new husband. From that point on, Billy bounced around the South Bay, staying with buddies, playing sports and venturing

out to the greens of San Diego Country Club to practice his putting—at night. It was in these moments that Billy gained his impeccable touch, making him one of the greatest putters in the history of the game.

At a football game he spotted a pretty girl in the bleachers. Soon, they were inseparable, and after a short stint in the Navy and success on the local amateur circuit, Shirley and Billy Casper got married. They would remain a team for life.

They saw the movie, Follow The Sun, in which Ben Hogan, played by Glenn Ford, came back from a near fatal accident to win the U.S. Open. Billy and Shirley were taken with the adventure of Ben Hogan and his wife Valerie, sallying forth on the PGA tour with no guarantees and only themselves to rely on. Soon after, they too decided to "Follow the Sun."

With a Buick Roadmaster and a Spartan Trailer, they headed out on the PGA Tour. Making less than \$50 in their first event, the difficulty of the tour became evident. Then, Billy's talent began to prevail. By the third round of the 1958 U.S. Open at Winged Foot, Billy was leading, with such legends as Ben Hogan and Sam Snead in hot pursuit. And let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, the kid from San Diego knew how to close tournaments. He won that U.S. Open and proceeded in the next decade to win more golf tournaments than Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus or Gary Player.

Along the way, Billy put together the best Ryder Cup record in U.S. history. At Olympic, in the 1966 U.S. Open, Billy shot the greatest come-from-behind closing nine holes in U.S. Open history, making up seven shots on Arnie, with a closing 32. He defeated Arnold Palmer the next day in an eighteen hole play-off with a 69.

In an age of sports psychologists and "living in the moment," where athletes are counseled to jettison all distractions, Billy Casper redefined the term "family man." He and Shirley were blessed with 11 children, who have given them 71 grandchildren over the years. Billy Casper thrived on what others would consider career distractions and his reward for building a family of love and unity is that the Casper support structure for young people will continue.

His annual golf tournament will be played this year as a memorial, run by the Casper children and grandchildren as usual, and with Shirley overseeing everything. Only one guy will be missing, the grandfather with the magic golf touch and the big heart; the guy who did us all proud . . . not just because of what he did, but because of who he was. Inside. Where it counts.

HONORING JACOB LEE VELAZQUEZ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly praise to recognize Jacob Lee Velaz-

quez. Jacob is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 43, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jacob constructed two team benches for the St. Joseph Youth Soccer Association in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Lee Velazquez for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

ALEXSANDER HAY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexander Hay for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alexander Hay is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexander Hay is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alexander Hay for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING LAKE ALFRED, FLORIDA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Lake Alfred, Florida as the city celebrates its 100th anniversary. Lake Alfred is a beautiful community situated among the many lakes of Central Florida.

Lake Alfred's rich history began with its original settlement as a military outpost, called Fort Cummings, in 1839. In 1887, a railroad

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

line connecting Sanford and Tampa was constructed through Lake Alfred and logging quickly became the community's primary industry. At the turn of the century, Frank C. Gardner of Fargo, North Dakota, sensibly seeking more clement weather in the Sunshine State, formed the Florida Fruitlands Company, purchasing vast tracts of land and planting citrus groves. In the subsequent years, the community underwent several name changes before finally choosing Lake Alfred, one of the most scenic lakes in the community. Lake Alfred has continued to grow as one of the most vibrant cities in Central Florida.

It is an honor to represent the residents of Lake Alfred, and I am excited to join them in celebrating this historical milestone.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE
OF BARBARA AYMAR EARLE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of an extraordinary American, Barbara (Bobbie) Aymar Earle who passed away in Essex, Connecticut on December 10, 2014, in the company of her five children.

Barbara was born in New York City on January 1, 1925, the daughter of Gordon Aymar, a noted illustrator and portrait painter, and Margaretta Aymar, a civic leader. She attended The Thomas School in Rowayton, Connecticut, Barnard College, and the Julliard School of Music in New York City. She played the harp professionally for a short time before marrying the great love of her life, Harry W. Earle, of Norwalk, Connecticut, upon his return in 1944 from Air Force service in Europe during World War II. She devoted the next thirty years to raising her family, to civic activities, and to writing. She co-founded Person-to-Person, the Connecticut-based volunteer organization that provides clothing, food and other necessities to those in need. She also spent many years as a hospice volunteer, the organization that assisted her during the final days of her life. More than forty years after she first started college, Bobbie returned to earn her Bachelor of Science degree, graduating summa cum laude in 1983 from the University of Washington/Oshkosh, at the age of 58, with a major in human services and a minor in music. "Give Us This Day", a book of her poems will be published in 2015.

Bobbie is remembered for her love of life, music, gardening and poetry, her devotion to family and friends, and for her deep and lasting influence on the communities where she lived. Her daughters, Penrhyn Cook and Barbara Ballard; her sons, David, John and Gordon; and her sister Carol Armstrong survive her. She was the proud grandmother of eleven grandchildren: Matthew and Jonathan Earle, Geoffrey Bailey, Joby and Derry Earle, Margaret and Harry Kaplan-Earle, Gordon Earle, Benjamin and Emily Ballard, Naima Guzman, and one great granddaughter, Katherine Guzman. She was predeceased by her brother, Gordon Aymar, Jr. and by Harry Earle, her husband of 56 years.

I met Bobbie in 1966 when the Earle family moved to California from Connecticut. Her

husband Harry had been named Vice President of Marketing at the newly formed J.W. Clement Company in Palo Alto and he hired me to be his assistant. From that time and throughout the rest of our lives, Bobbie and Harry remained dear friends. She enhanced and blessed my life with her boundless gifts of wisdom, laughter, poetry, gardening tips, charity, faith, integrity, humility and her sheer joy of life. Across all the decades, I have never known a finer person. A conversation with Bobbie was always a beautiful experience, sprinkled with sparks of divinity. Simply put, there was no one like her. Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and work of Barbara Aymar Earle and in extending our deepest condolences to her magnificent family.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MISSOURI
FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Anniversary of the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation. The Missouri Farm Bureau has been a champion of advocating for farmers the past century. Over the years, this organization has built a reputation of service based on credibility, integrity, and thorough knowledge of the issues—a reputation that continues to grow.

On March 24, 1915, the county Farm Bureau movement changed forever. A group of farmers and ranchers gathered in Saline County to organize the nation's first state Farm Bureau organization. Since then, Missouri Farm Bureau has continued to grow in strength and is the state's most effective organization that works to improve the quality of life for farmers, rural Missouri, and all Missourians. When members join, their voice is heard at the county, state, and national level.

Over these one hundred years, Missouri Farm Bureau has worked on various issues on the state and national level that would affect the farming industry. This organization is also committed to teaching consumers and school children how crop/food production affects their daily lives. By educating future generations about the importance of agriculture, this industry will continue to be successful.

As a farmer and member of Missouri Farm Bureau, it is a privilege to recognize the impact this organization has had on the agriculture industry and families in Missouri. I am confident that Missouri Farm Bureau will continue to succeed in the years to come.

I ask you in joining me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Missouri Farm Bureau.

HONORING GABRIEL STILLWELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Gabriel Stillwell.

Gabe is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1286, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Gabe has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Gabe has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Gabe has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Gabe installed a flagpole and added landscaping to the front of Community of Christ Church in Odessa, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Gabriel Stillwell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EMMA EAKER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emma Eaker for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Emma Eaker is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emma Eaker is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Emma Eaker for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MARK
GIESEN, THE SUNBURY, PENN-
SYLVANIA ROTARY CLUB'S
SUNBURY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Sunbury, Pennsylvania Rotary Club's Sunbury Citizen of the Year, Mark Giesen, or otherwise known by his radio name, "Mark Lawrence." The Sunbury Rotary Club is an organization within my district that reaches out locally and internationally to better the lives of others through an array of service projects. Mr. Giesen has acted both within the club and the medium of broadcast journalism to proudly serve his community.

Often referred to as "The Voice of the Valley," Mr. Giesen serves as the Program Director at Newsradio 1070 WKOK, and through his position, helps many constituents throughout my district promote events and fundraisers.

His decorated professional experience includes previous roles at WHLM AM/FM in Bloomsburg, and as the News Director at WKOK/WQKX in Sunbury. Mr. Giesen has also worked at Clear Channel in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Giesen's passion for broadcasting began at a young age. As a child, he used to spin the dials on an old radio at night in an effort to reach as many stations as possible. Later on, Mr. Giesen became a fellow at WKOK/AM/FM in Sunbury, and would ride his bike to the studio in the Fort Augusta Museum to continually immerse himself in the world of broadcast journalism.

Mr. Speaker, for his committed service to the Sunbury Rotary Club, to his role as the Program Director at Newsradio 1070 WKOK, and to the constituents of my district, I commend Mr. Giesen and congratulate him on being named the Sunbury Rotary Club's Sunbury Citizen of the year.

THE FLYING TIGERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on March 28, China will open the doors to a new museum in Chongqing. The museum will be dedicated to a group of American fighter pilots and heroes. The group was originally called the American Volunteer Group, though they are now famously referred to as the Flying Tigers.

Known for the shark face art on the nose of their planes, the Flying Tigers were a group of volunteers that fought alongside the Chinese in their defense against the Japanese at the beginning of World War II. The group was formed by Claire Chennault, a retired U.S. Army Air Corps Lieutenant General from Commerce, Texas, with permission from President Roosevelt himself. The Flying Tigers were comprised of over 100 pilots who hailed from the United States Army Air Corps, the Navy, and the Marine Corps.

Before the creation of the Flying Tigers, Chennault was in China working as an aviation advisor to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek and as the director of a Chinese Air Force flight school in Kunming. In 1941, Chiang Kai-Shek sent Chennault to Washington to obtain a war-time loan and some fighter planes, but Chennault came back with much more than that.

With directions from the President and in accordance with the Generalissimo, Chennault headed out to recruit pilots to volunteer with him in China. Since the United States was not yet at war, this all had to be done discreetly.

These brave men were secretly discharged from their respective units and sent to Burma for training. Within four months, the Flying Tigers were dropped into the battlefield and instantly made a name for themselves.

One of the most famous Tigers was David Lee Hill, known by his comrades as "Tex," due to his South Texas heritage. He's remembered as a hero, both in China and back home. He joined the Flying Tigers in 1941, and was credited with destroying over ten Japanese fighter planes in just his first battle in January of 1942. A couple of months after, Tex was officially named squadron leader,

where he began planning for his new position and upcoming missions.

On May 7th, 1942, the Japanese began building a bridge across the Salween River that would allow them to easily move troops and supplies into China. However, much to the chagrin of the Japanese, Chennault and Tex learned of their plan. Tex led a flight to the river with the intention of blocking Japanese advancement, and the plan proved successful. According to Chennault, this was one of the most critical missions the Flying Tigers would go on to accomplish.

In July of 1942, after many successful combat missions, the Flying Tigers were disbanded. Though they're remembered for their successes and heroic air battles, their success came with a price. Lacking resources that typical U.S. air corps had, such as doctors, nurses, fresh food, and maintenance personnel, the Flying Tigers were constantly facing setbacks. Wounds were rarely properly treated and the threat of disease was constant. Sixteen Flying Tigers gave their lives in 1941 and 1942, though not before taking out nearly 300 Japanese aircrafts.

After the deactivation, Tex, and five other former Flying Tigers, officially rejoined the United States Army Air Force. On Thanksgiving of 1943, Tex led troops into Formosa where they were heavily outnumbered by the Japanese. Against all odds, his squadron returned home unscathed, despite having downed over 40 Japanese planes.

Tex left active duty in 1946, but joined the Air Force Reserves shortly after, where he would serve until his retirement in 1968 as a brigadier general. His career will go down as one of the most impressive in United States military history. He's been inducted into both the National and Texas Aviation Hall of Fames, and has received numerous awards from both the United States and China.

Tex and his fellow Flying Tigers, such as Claire Chennault, will go down in history as one of the most selfless and heroic service groups in United States military history. They went to war when they didn't have to, to defend a country to which they held no allegiance. The selfless acts of the Flying Tigers will forever be remembered, and their duty, honor, and character should help guide Americans for years to come.

It's no surprise that many of those feisty, tenacious volunteers were from Texas. They would have made the defenders of the Alamo proud.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF CHARLES "CHUCKIE"
WHEELER OF THE BOSTON POLICE
DEPARTMENT

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Charles "Chuckie" Wheeler, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Boston Police Department and his hometown of South Boston, MA, and to commend him for over twenty-nine years of dedicated service to his community through his time at the department.

The son of Gerard and Anna Wheeler, Chuckie was born on October 1, 1955 in

South Boston and lived on Carmody Court in the Old Colony Housing Projects for most of his growing years. He lived and raised his family all over Southie, from M Street to Preble Street, before moving to Braintree, MA where he currently resides.

Mr. Speaker, Chuckie Wheeler attended South Boston High School where he was a multi-sport all-star athlete and where he met his future wife, Charlene McGinn in the storybook football player meets cheerleader fashion. After graduation, he attended Saint Anselm College and Northeastern University as well as played for the South Boston Chipewas Football Club.

Throughout his career, Chuckie always worked to support his community. Chuck was employed by the Boston Housing Authority and the Boston Public Schools Police Department, prior to joining the Boston Police Department in 1986 where he remained until his retirement this year.

During his time with the Boston Police Department, Chuckie provided distinguished service at both the community level as well as at the Department's Headquarters. Chuckie patrolled the streets of South Boston through District C-6 for the early part of his career, always providing guidance and mentorship to the neighborhood youth. In the latter half of his career, Chuck became one of the cornerstones and first members of a newly-created Crime Scene Response Unit, where he remained until his retirement. During his time with the Crime Scene Unit, Chuckie held fast to his mentorship genes and was an integral part of bringing the Unit to the nationally-recognized success it is today. Chuckie's dedication to the Department and the Crime Scene Response Unit was only outshined by his commitment to his family and community, where Chuckie could regularly be found coaching the South Boston and Braintree youth in football, t-ball, baseball and softball.

Mr. Speaker, Chuckie Wheeler is known for his generous spirit and kind heart. He has had the good fortune to be married to Charlene for thirty-five years. Chuckie and Charlene are proud parents of three children and three grandchildren with a fourth on the way!

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with Charles "Chuckie" Wheeler's family, friends, and contemporaries to thank him for his remarkable service to the Boston Police Department and his community.

AUSTIN GUT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Austin Gut for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Austin Gut is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Austin Gut is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Austin Gut for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING CHARLES ALEXANDER VELAZQUEZ

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Alexander Velazquez. Alex is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 43, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alex has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Alex installed a 20 foot flagpole for the St. Joseph Youth Soccer Association in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles Alexander Velazquez for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN WAYNE HOSS, SAN MATEO POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Wayne Hoss who is retiring as a Captain in the San Mateo Police Department after 28 years of distinguished service. The San Mateo Police Department relied heavily upon the talents of Captain Hoss over his decades of service, as indicated by the extraordinary range of responsibilities that he held while with the department.

Wayne Hoss worked in every major aspect of department operations, always giving outstanding service. He was initially assigned to patrol and then to Investigations. He kept his investigations skills well-honed throughout his career and later used these skills repeatedly during the times my district office and I relied upon Captain Hoss to respond to security concerns. In addition to working in Investigations, Wayne Hoss also worked in Field Operations, Special Operations, and the Street Crimes Suppression Team. Seeing his talent as an officer, the department assigned Wayne Hoss as a training officer. Noticing that he could manage a computer and other new technology better than many in the department, probably including many Chiefs and more senior personnel, Wayne Hoss was given oversight of technology-related projects

He conducted neighborhood traffic patrols and worked in the K-9 unit. Narcotics, SWAT, major crimes and internal affairs were also entrusted to Captain Hoss as he rose through the ranks. He also worked on the most serious crimes impacting the community including robbery, homicide and sexual assault. As you can see from this unusually broad list, there were very few responsibilities that he did not have during his 28 years of service to the people of San Mateo. I am sure that he has many stories of difficult situations and also wonderful outcomes from the cases that he handled and the people he touched over these years.

My staff and I found Captain Hoss to be highly responsive. He would anticipate our concerns, raise our awareness about security, and inform us about other activities in the community that we needed to know about in order to do our jobs better. His department noted in its letter to us that he worked hard to build trust with the community. We can say from our own experience that Captain Hoss was exceptional in the thoroughness of his communications and the support that he offered.

San Mateo is a diverse city with a high quality of life. Its success is due in part to the dedication of the men and women of the San Mateo Police Department who face big-city policing challenges but also work in a city with a tight-knit sense of community. As spokesperson for the police department, leader and mentor, Wayne Hoss helped to create this quality of life and the tight relationship that the department has with populations originating from around the globe. I am sure that many of the skills that he demonstrated in San Mateo originated with his service in our nation's armed forces as a military police officer. MP's have to cope with many unusual situations and sometimes extremely dangerous operating conditions. I want to offer my appreciation to this veteran who turned his military experience into service to his neighbors and friends in civilian life.

In closing, I want to salute Captain Hoss upon the occasion of his retirement from the police department and the city that he served. He was a talented carpenter on a team that is adept at getting a tough job done right the first time. Retirement for a professional with enormous talent is merely a stepping stone to the next adventure. We thank Captain Hoss for his time in service to us all and wish him all the best in these next adventurous years.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD AND ERROR PREVENTION ACT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, for nearly 80 years, Social Security has been the bedrock of economic security for American families. Generations of Americans have contributed to Social Security with every paycheck, earning birth-to-death protection for themselves and their families. As a result of their contributions—\$16.1 trillion over Social Security's lifetime—Social Security currently has a \$2.8 trillion surplus.

Social Security benefits are modest—about \$15,000 a year for an average senior and

even less for a disabled worker—but for most recipients, their Social Security paycheck is more than half their monthly income.

As a representative of those Americans and the Ranking Democrat on the Social Security Subcommittee, I believe we have no more important responsibility than to make sure that Americans receive their earned Social Security benefits on time and in full. That means protecting Social Security beneficiaries from criminals and fraudsters who try to scam them out of their benefits, and it also means protecting Social Security's trust funds against fraud and errors so the money is available to pay earned benefits. And it means doing so in a way that does not delay needed benefits for honest, hard-working Americans.

On occasion Social Security will provide a recipient more than they are entitled to. That overpayment rate is only a fraction of one percent (0.22%). Most of these overpayments are due to errors, but a small part is due to fraud. Social Security employees believe—and I agree with them—that we could do more to safeguard Social Security.

Recently the Social Security Administration uncovered fraud conspiracies where Social Security contributions made by honest Americans were stolen to pay benefits to people who didn't earn them. In one of the conspiracies, the ringleaders even instructed people to pretend they were disabled as a result of the tragic events of September 11. Social Security's fraud investigators have also uncovered rings of criminals who electronically divert Americans' Social Security checks into their own bank accounts.

The good news is, when you invest in training highly qualified employees to protect Social Security, it pays off. Social Security's front-line employees uncovered those recent cases of fraud. With the help of Social Security's trained investigators, the ringleaders have been charged with felonies, the beneficiaries have been made whole, and Social Security has begun the process of recovering the money stolen from the trust fund.

But the bad news is that these conspiracies show that Social Security is a tempting target for those willing to break the law. Recent Republican budget cuts have made it harder for Social Security to develop and use effective tools to fight them.

That's why, over a year ago, my colleagues and I decided Congress needed to do its part to protect Social Security. We introduced the Social Security Fraud and Error Prevention Act. Our bill would have given Social Security new tools to find fraud and errors, recoup money that should be in the trust funds, and thrown the book at people who steal from Social Security.

Unfortunately, the Republican leadership in Congress failed to act on our proposal and continued to shortchange Social Security's budget. This lack of leadership has had consequences for Americans.

For example, Republican budget cuts mean Social Security has fewer fraud cops on the beat than it had five years ago. Our bill would guarantee Social Security's fraud-fighting budget, expand SSA's special fraud-busting investigative units to cover all 50 states, and increase prosecutions of people who steal from Social Security.

Social Security has lost more than 5,000 front-line workers to budget cuts. And Republicans in Congress blocked hundreds of millions of dollars that the Budget Control Act authorized for SSA's most cost-effective methods of preventing waste, fraud and abuse.

Today, we are reintroducing the Social Security Fraud and Error Prevention Act, which would provide SSA with guaranteed funding for its most effective strategies to prevent fraud and errors. The bill will also provide additional resources to recoup benefits that shouldn't have been paid, along with penalties, if the payments were the result of fraud.

Our measure would demand something in exchange for the guaranteed money: complete transparency and accountability. Social Security could only use the dedicated funds for the most important and effective strategies. SSA would have to report annually to Congress how much was spent and what savings their efforts generated for Social Security's trust funds. And the new funds would only be available for additional fraud and error fighting—not to replace what SSA is already spending out of its regular budget.

Our bill isn't the complete answer to protecting Social Security's trust fund. As we consulted Social Security employees, managers, experts, and beneficiary advocates, they all told us the same thing: the best defense against fraud and errors is a well-staffed, well-trained SSA. And for that to happen, Republicans in Congress have to agree to fund SSA's overall budget.

But providing guaranteed funding to fight fraud will at least spare SSA from having to choose between preventing fraud and processing applications so that Americans receive the benefits they earned on time and in full.

I hope we can work together in a bipartisan way to enact this bill and protect Social Security.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF SCOTT JOHNSON TO THE TENTH DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to a dedicated staffer in the office of the Tenth Congressional District of Florida. Scott Johnson will soon be moving on to new opportunities at the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Scott has done a wonderful job serving the people of Florida's Tenth District since he joined my staff in October 2013. As the face of my DC front office, he has welcomed visitors to my office and to the People's House, and demonstrated the responsiveness to the needs and concerns of the people of Florida's Tenth District that this institution was formulated to reflect. Scott is enthusiastic, hard-working, and dedicated to service. He has been a valuable asset to the people of Florida.

While I am sad to see Scott leave, I am grateful for his service. He will be truly missed in the office. I wish him success and fulfillment in his new position, knowing that his character and talents will assure him both, in this and any new adventure he chooses.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,428,120,668.55. We've added \$7,525,551,071,755.47 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

MIRIAM GALVAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Miriam Galvan for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Miriam Galvan is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Miriam Galvan is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Miriam Galvan for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING SPENCER COLE GOULDSMITH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Cole Gouldsmith. Spencer is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 264, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Spencer has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Spencer has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Spencer has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Spencer Cole Gouldsmith for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING DR. KENNETH DOBBINS

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Dr. Kenneth Dobbins for his significant contributions to Missouri's higher education system over the past two decades. After a distinguished fifteen year tenure, Dr. Dobbins has announced his plans to retire from his position as the president of Southeast Missouri State University at the end of this year's spring semester. His leadership will be difficult to replace and will undoubtedly be missed.

During his tenure as president of Southeast Missouri State University, the university and its programs were nationally recognized by prestigious publications such as U.S. News and the Princeton Review. SMSU increased access to higher education for many Missourians, and enrollment increased steadily each year under Dr. Dobbins' leadership. In 1994, only about 7,900 students attended SMSU. But, as a result of his continued guidance, enrollment for the fall semester of 2014 has increased to 12,087 students.

This gradual increase in enrollment is attributed to Dr. Dobbins' goal of making Southeast Missouri State University's enrollment representative of diversity of the state of Missouri. Moreover, throughout Dr. Dobbins' tenure access to higher education increased dramatically with record enrollments in the SMSU's 25-county service region as a result of regional campuses in Sikeston and Kennett serving place-bound students in and near those rural communities.

Dr. Dobbins also served a two-year term as president of the Missouri Council on Public Higher Education, which is the organization for presidents and chancellors of Missouri's public colleges and universities. In addition, in 2007 he was selected to serve a three-year term on the American Association of State Colleges and Universities Board of Directors, an organization which represents over 420 U.S. public college and university presidents, which equates to 56 percent of the enrollment at all public four-year institutions.

I am extremely proud of all that Dr. Dobbins has done for Missouri's higher education system. It is my honor to recognize him before the U.S. House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes # 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, and 118 because I was attending the funeral of community leader and former United Auto Workers vice president General Holiefield in Detroit. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on roll call votes # 113, 114, 115, and 118 and NAY on roll call #116 and #117.

IN HONOR OF CHARLENE WHEELER OF SOUTH BOSTON AND BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Charlene Wheeler, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and to commend her for 32 years of dedicated service to the MBTA and the South Boston community where Charlene was raised.

The daughter of Robert and Mary McGinn, natives of South Boston, MA, Charlene was born on May 5th, 1955 in South Boston and lived all over the neighborhood, from D Street to Middle Street to Dorchester St. until she moved to Braintree, MA with her family in 1991. Charlene attended the John Boyle O'Reilly School, Cardinal Cushing and South Boston High School, graduating in 1973.

Prior to joining the MBTA, Charlene worked a number of jobs in her South Boston community including as a counselor with Jobs for Youth. Additionally, Charlene volunteered her time by teaching Catholic education at St. Brigid's School where her children attended.

In her time with the MBTA, Charlene held a number of positions, starting as Track Walker and progressing to her final position as Train Starter for the Red Line. At times, Charlene was one of the first females to hold positions of authority at the "T" and always did so with the mindset of professionalism and equality. She took pride in each position she held at the MBTA and made endless contributions to the Authority.

Mr. Speaker, Charlene is known for her caring heart, outgoing personality, and her dedication to family, friends and her work. Charlene has had the good fortune to be married to her high school sweetheart, Chuckie Wheeler for 35 years. They are the proud parents of three children and three grandchildren, with a fourth on the way.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with Charlene Wheeler's family, friends, and contemporaries to thank her for 32 years of remarkable service to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and the communities of South Boston and Braintree in which she lived and worked.

AYLA SCHUETZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ayla Schuetz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Ayla Schuetz is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ayla Schuetz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all

levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ayla Schuetz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF FLEXIBILITY FOR WORKING FAMILIES ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, across all sectors and industries, flexible work arrangements are a key to meeting the 21st century's diverse workforce needs. Such voluntary arrangements have been shown to boost employee satisfaction and their physical and mental health as well as improve businesses bottom line by helping to retain key talent, reduce absenteeism, and enhance employee productivity.

Flexible workplace policies are a win-win for businesses and workers. To help promote these policies, I am introducing the Flexibility for Working Families Act. This legislation guarantees employees the right to request flexible work arrangements and provides employers with flexibility by encouraging them to review these requests, propose changes, and even deny them if they are not in the best interest of the business. Such voluntary arrangements between employees and employers include changing the time, amount, and/or place that work is conducted.

It is time for our country's workplace policies to reflect the reality of a 21st century economy—where both parents are working and overtime is expected. I urge my colleagues to support the Flexibility for Working Families Act, and I thank Sen. BOB CASEY for his work on this important legislation.

HONORING DANIEL GARNETT SHAY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Garnett Shay. Daniel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 264, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Daniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Daniel has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Garnett Shay for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE AND BRAVERY OF JAMES A. CARTER

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of a very special constituent of mine, James A. Carter.

James Carter was born on January 28, 1921, in Hannibal, Missouri, and passed away on February 22, 2015.

On that infamous day in 1941, James was stationed at the Pearl Harbor military base in Hawaii as a machinist. As you already know, on December 7, 1941, the Japanese Imperial Navy launched a surprise attack on the U.S. Naval Fleet stationed in Pearl Harbor. This heinous act by the Japanese Empire struck a massive blow to our armed forces in the Pacific theater of operations, costing the lives of over 2,400 people.

None could have anticipated the events that occurred that day, but even as fiery death rained down upon servicemen and civilians alike, the brave men and women of Pearl Harbor rose to meet the occasion. On that day, James himself, caring nothing for his own life or safety, swam time and time again through the raging inferno of burning oil which blanketed the surface of the harbor, dragging many back to safety on the shore. James sought no recognition for his actions that day, and never spoke of his valiant actions upon returning to civilian life.

I raise my voice today to honor, in memorial, the life of a brave and humble man. I am deeply honored to recognize James Carter and his service to our nation. May his life be an example to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed roll call votes 113, 114, and 115. If present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 113, "yea" on roll call vote 114, and "yea" on roll call vote 115.

ROBERT CHRYSAFIS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Robert Chrysafis for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Robert Chrysafis is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Robert Chrysafis is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and

perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Robert Chrysafis for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING CARLOS
VILLARREAL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a noteworthy American: Carlos Villarreal. From April of 2007 until 2014, Mr. Villarreal served as City Manager of Laredo, Texas. In his own words, he worked diligently to "shape the growth and prosperity of [his] community."

Carlos Villarreal graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration. He began his career in public service with the City of Laredo, serving as the Director of Community Development. During his time in this role, he became the department's chief planner and director for the renewal of urban housing programs, working tirelessly to ensure affordable housing for low-income Laredoans. Mr. Villarreal then served as the Assistant City Manager for ten years and went on to become the Executive Administrator for Webb County, where he oversaw the administration and management of all county departments and worked with county officials to improve county services. For the past eight years, Mr. Villarreal has served as the City Manager of Laredo.

With his experience in government spanning over thirty-five years, Mr. Villarreal successfully procured two presidential permits for the Colombia Solidarity Bridge and World Trade Bridge, both of which allowed Laredo's port to become the country's number one land port for commercial trade. He has also maintained a valuable working relationship with the Mexican government at the local, state, and federal levels.

Mr. Villarreal has also served as Past President of LULAC Council #12. He is the recipient of various awards such as the Republic of Mexico-Jose Lopez Portillo Presidential Medal for Outstanding Service, the Sportsman of the Year by the Latin American International Sports Hall of Fame, and the Tejano Achievers Award for Community Service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Carlos Villarreal for his outstanding service to the City of Laredo and its people.

IN RECOGNITION OF LYDIA I.
BEEBE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lydia I. Beebe, a leader in the Bay Area and

role model for women in corporate America, who is retiring after a remarkable career at Chevron Corporation that spanned four decades. For the last 20 years, Lydia served as the Corporate Secretary and Chief Governance Officer. In addition, she served as the secretary of the board, the Executive Committee and the Board Nominating and Governance Committee.

Lydia's history with Chevron dates back to 1977 when she originally joined as a contract attorney. She then worked as a legislative representative in Washington, D.C. from 1981–1985, and a senior management and tax counsel in the tax department from 1985–1995.

Lydia's competent, calm and clear advice has earned her the trust and admiration of the Board of Directors senior management at Chevron. Her leadership style has also earned her my trust and admiration. I had the great privilege of working with Lydia Beebe on the Board of Directors of PBWC, the Professional Business Women of California, an organization I founded 26 years ago to give women a platform to connect and help each other grow and thrive. Lydia helped guide PBWC from 1998–2003, the last two years as chair of the board.

For Lydia, no problem is ever life-threatening and there is always a Plan B. Her contributions to PBWC were and remain invaluable to the organization and in 1996 she deservedly was awarded the "Breakthrough Award."

As you can surmise from Lydia's achievements in the corporate world, she is a trailblazer who simply ignored the glass ceiling and burst through it. Her impact reaches far beyond one company. She is a frequent speaker and panelist addressing corporate governance topics. She has also been very active with the Society of Corporate Secretaries and Governance Professionals.

Lydia Beebe is a native of Kansas and earned her bachelor's degree in journalism in 1974 and her Juris Doctor degree in 1977 from the University of Kansas. She moved to California and received her master's degree in taxation from Golden Gate University in 1980.

We in California are extraordinarily fortunate that she relocated from the Midwest. Her intelligence, resolve and philanthropy have benefited many organizations and countless individuals. Lydia serves on the National Association of Corporate Directors of Northern California, the San Francisco Symphony, and the advisory board of the Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock Center for Corporate Governance at Stanford. Lydia was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Presidio Trust in 2003 by President George W. Bush and served until 2008. In 1991, she was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission where she served for eight years, from 1995–1999 as chair.

As a Golden Gate University graduate, she served as board secretary and member of the executive committee and received the 2004 Alumna of the Year award. She was also a member of the San Francisco Municipal Fiscal Advisory Committee to the mayor for more than 10 years.

But Lydia, with her inexhaustible energy, didn't abandon her roots; she also serves on the governing boards of the Kansas University Endowment Association and the Kansas Uni-

versity Law Alumni. At the University of Delaware, the John L. Weinberg Center and Corporate Governance is lucky to have her on the advisory board.

In her retirement, she will undoubtedly enjoy more time with her husband Charles Doyle and their three children Bion, Jason and Louise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor an amazing woman whom Chevron named its first woman officer, whom the San Francisco Business Times named one of the most influential businesswomen in the Bay Area for eight consecutive years, and whom I feel humbled to count as a dear friend and irreplaceable adviser. Lydia Beebe is a role model for women and men everywhere. I am honored to congratulate her on her retirement from Chevron on the eve of the 26th PBWC conference.

RECOGNIZING LANCASTER HIGH
SCHOOL, TEXAS'S 2015 CLASS 5A
STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the Lancaster High School Tigers for winning the State of Texas title in the class 5A State Basketball Championship on Saturday, March 14, 2015. On behalf of all the proud residents of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, I stand with great pride to salute the Tigers for their unmatched athleticism, dedication, perseverance and teamwork. This victory is historic. The 2015 State Championship Team is the 100th basketball team in Lancaster I.S.D.'s history, and they are the first team to ever bring home this title to the great City of Lancaster.

The Lancaster Tigers worked hard throughout the season in preparation for the challenge that awaited them in San Antonio, Texas. The Tigers entered the 2015 State Tournament on a remarkable 27 game winning streak. After a hard fought battle with the Clifton J. Ozen Panthers of Beaumont, Texas, the Tigers emerged victorious. The team was led by Senior Forward, Elijah Thomas, a Top 20 pick, who contributed seventeen points to the team's winning score of 59–47.

The talented young men who make up Lancaster's remarkable team have assembled a fine record ending the season with 33 wins and only 4 losses. Members of the team include: Junior Power Forward, Nate Morris; Senior Point Guard, Antwain Portley; Junior Shooting Guard and Forward, JaColby Pemberton; and Junior Guard, Deon Barrett.

This accomplishment is a testament to the inspirational leadership of Head Coach, Ferrin Douglas and his Varsity Assistant coach, Mr. Joseph Mayberry. Coach Douglas has built an impressive basketball program at Lancaster High School during his 9 year tenure. "Coach Doug," as he is affectionately called, provides guidance that his players describe as crucial in helping them realize their potential both on and off the court.

On behalf of the 30th District of Texas, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of the Lancaster High School

basketball team for their victory in the 2015 Texas Class 5A State Basketball Championship. We are proud of your accomplishment, and we share in the pride and excitement felt by the city of Lancaster, Texas, the Superintendent of Lancaster I.S.D., Mr. Michael McFarland, the Principal of Lancaster High School, Mr. Michael Showell and the entire school.

HONORING DEVIN MCCOMBS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Devin McCombs. Devin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Devin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Devin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Devin has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Devin McCombs for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

BIANCA MARTINEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bianca Martinez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Bianca Martinez is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Bianca Martinez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Bianca Martinez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING LT. COLONEL GREG GADSON

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's finest, Lt. Colonel

Greg Gadson who is in command of Ft. Belvoir in Virginia, a graduate of West Point in 1989. Greg was also a star linebacker on the United States Army football team. Greg, a twenty-year veteran, has received three bronze stars and a purple heart. While serving in Operation Iraq Freedom, he was almost killed as the commander of a surge unit by an IED explosion, losing both of his legs. He has since done nothing but climbed mountain after mountain. He is also well-known as an inspirational public speaker, and many give him credit for helping inspire the New York Giants to their Super Bowl XLVI season. He has also appeared in the movie "Battleship" and truly is an American hero and a man for all seasons. I submit this poem, penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

HOLD THAT LINE

Hold
That
Line
All in our lifetimes
Past what new goal lines will we so drive?
When, it all so seems our backs are up
against the wall to find
All in these the moments of our lives
Coming off that line
All in hearts now carried deep
What promises to ourselves will we so keep?
To find the faith and courage to compete
To strive
Will we get up and fight?
When it all so lies on the line
And hold
That
Line
Or will we give in,
In these our darkest of all nights as they
begin?
Or will we go deep?
All in our hearts of honor so to seek
Whether, on football fields of green
Or out upon most heroic battlefields of honor
seen
You Lt. Colonel Gadson,
Have always gleamed
Will our hearts choose to stand and fight,
To compete?
All in the seeds we've sown so deep
All in our hearts to reap
Emanating from somewhere inside,
So down so very deep
Is the place Lt. Colonel,
Where all of your promises you would so
keep
All in your strength in honor which speaks
To be the best as you would seek
All in your actions,
And deeds
Firing out across that line to death to beat
Tackling all of those obstacles in your way
to compete
As so gallantly you sow heroism seeds
As why in the game of life you shine so bril-
liantly
As it's your faith Greg you were so to keep
Running from end to end,
As up ahead you would lead
To take control and command
To hold
That
Line
As there you'd stand
When this battle before you so lie
As across that goal line of life for victory
you'd strive
All because of men like you Colonel who so
courageously compete
We all may live in peace
Because, in the game of life
It's all about digging in,

And digging in deep
Through thick and thin,
How far we are all willing to go for victory
to reach

To
Hold
That
Line
To walk through that valley of death,
With clenched fists to one day Heaven reach
For these are the things in life which speak
And who have we saved?
And who have we blessed?
And what have we taught to pass that test?
By all our actions, whom have we reached
By our examples to beseech
Will we stand up and go deep?
As have you Colonel,
As to such new heights you'd so reach
In this new battle you began,
And you so chose to fight and stand
While, all in the midst of hell
As your most courageous heart began to
swell
And you had to start all over again
Without your once strong legs upon which
you so ran
As you looked down as the red blood ran
As in that moment your new battle so began
Being from The Point,
Your heart gave you a command
To hold
That
Line
As once again it was first and goal
With your back to the wall
As you had to plug up all those holes,
And somehow find the strength to stand
To tackle all that misery at hand
And somehow hold
That
Line
As you had done before,
Time and time again
As somehow you got up and stood,
And started your whole life over as you
would
Listening to your heart,
As you brought tears to all our eyes
Thanking your Father and your brothers for
being alive
As a winner in that game of life you crossed
that recovery goal line
As Greg you crushed it
As death you sacked it
Firing out to victory to find
And Colonel,
If I ever have a son
I pray to God,
He could lead a life like yours as won
Who when it was all on the line,
Did not thing think twice
To win that day, that fight
As a winner before us now stands here this
night
Because it's on our legs we stand
But it's with our hearts we run to daylight
And we
Hold
That
Line
For Greg you are Army strong
And why such men as you and MacArthur to
The Point so belong
Whose hearts of honor in history will live on
Hoo ah

Mr. Speaker, before I close, I ask everyone to continue to pray for our country and for our military men and women that protect it.

God bless the United States of America.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DUNKIRK FIRE CHIEF KEITH AHLSTROM

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and accomplishments of heroic member of the Western New York community, Dunkirk Fire Chief Keith Ahlstrom, on the occasion of his retirement after a remarkable career.

Since joining the Fire Department in 1979, Ahlstrom has provided wonderful leadership, serving as chief for the last 8 years. His team of 25 paid firefighters and numerous volunteers work together to provide safety for the residents of Dunkirk. Ahlstrom follows his brother, who also recently retired from the fire service, but his 35 years of committed work will not be forgotten.

Along with his tenure as Fire Chief, Keith Ahlstrom also served as valuable member of the community, spending time as a high school baseball umpire and serving as the most senior Chautauqua County legislator. Ahlstrom looks forward to spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deeply thank Keith Ahlstrom for his dedicated years of service and sacrifice for his community. We wish him all of the greatest happiness in his future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MAIME ERNA STRIEBER SHEPPERD

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Maime Erna Strieber Shepperd. Maime passed away in January, just weeks after celebrating her ninety-seventh birthday. Bright from a young age, Maime graduated high school as class valedictorian at the age of fifteen and enrolled in the University of Texas at Austin Journalism School. It was at the University of Texas where she met her husband of 51 years, the late John Ben Shepperd. They were married shortly after her graduation.

Maime and John raised four children together, living in both Austin and Odessa throughout their marriage. She was first-lady to John's political career, first as Texas Secretary of State and then as Attorney General. When the family moved to Odessa, Maime got involved with many cultural, philanthropic, and political organizations. She served on the board for the West Texas Rehabilitation Center and founded the Crystal Ball, an annual benefit event. She was also involved as a board member for the Midland-Odessa Symphony, and was tapped by the New York Metropolitan Opera to serve as their West Texas representative.

During Lyndon Johnson's campaign for president in 1964, Maime served as the Chairwoman of the Ladies for Lyndon West Texas committee. She also joined Lady Bird Johnson on the whistle-stop Lady Bird Special train as it toured eight southern states. Maime's legacy

also extends to the University of Texas Permian Basin's library. As the Odessa chairman of the book drive which founded the library in the early 1970s, she helped obtain over 300,000 books to start the collection that students at the University of Texas Permian Basin still use to this day.

Maime's dedication to her many cultural and philanthropic pursuits was admirable, as was the stable and loving home she provided for her family. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Alfred and Honey Shepperd, her daughter and son-in-law, Suzanne and Gary McIntosh, nine grandchildren, and twenty great-grandchildren. Please join me in remembering the extraordinary life of Maime Shepperd.

YURITZI MORA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yuritzi Mora for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Yuritzi Mora is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Yuritzi Mora is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Yuritzi Mora for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

REMEMBERING A HEINOUS ATTACK AGAINST THE KURDISH PEOPLE

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pause and remember a heinous attack against the Kurdish people that occurred 27 years ago this week.

On March 16, 1988, Saddam Hussein's regime dropped chemical weapons on the city of Halabja, killing 5,000 innocent men, women, and children.

Thousands more suffered permanent injuries.

This crime against humanity was the worst part of a larger campaign of more than 40 gas attacks aimed at exterminating the Kurds.

The Kurdish people, however, have proudly persevered, rebuilt, and now provide stability and an ally in an often unstable region.

Today, while we look back on this solemn anniversary, it is important to offer our gratitude to the Kurdish people for their courage and sacrifice in the current fight to defeat our mutual enemy ISIL.

THANKS MR. BASEM MUALLEM FOR YOUR SERVICE TO CALTRANS DISTRICT 8

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bid farewell to Basem Muallem who will be retiring after 29 years with Caltrans at the end of March. A true man of the people, Muallem will always be remembered as an extraordinary leader who listened and understood the growing infrastructure needs of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. As District 8 Director, Muallem is currently responsible for the largest of the 12 statewide Caltrans districts geographically, with four interstates and 32 routes totaling over 7,000 lane miles within its boundaries. Muallem manages a staff of 1,280 and an operating budget of \$181 million. He oversees all facets of design, construction, operation and maintenance of the state highway system in the greater Inland Empire region. Muallem works in partnership with both regional transportation and local resource agencies to provide a safe and reliable highway network for the traveling public. For as long as I have been in public office, our region continues to face massive growth. As more people, businesses and vehicles come into the area, the challenges of providing a highway system to meet the region's growing needs increase. Muallem has been a good friend to these needs in the various positions he has held within Caltrans. What's next for him you might ask? Muallem, who holds a Bachelors of Science degree in biology, and a Bachelors and Masters of Science degrees in Civil Engineering is headed to Parsons corporation, an engineering and construction company. I wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. CARL DJERASSI

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the iconic Dr. Carl Djerassi who died at the age of 91 on January 30, 2015. In the weeks since his death, a great deal has been said about Dr. Djerassi.

Most of these comments focus on his key role in developing the contraceptive pill. Because Dr. Djerassi and two other scientists were able to synthesize norethindrone, a key ingredient of the pill was finally available for widespread use and commercialization. The human race owes Dr. Djerassi a great deal.

Because women were finally able to control their own fertility, they were able to spend time in school, obtain work and to fully join the economy. Millennia spent bearing children and being denied education and advancement due to the demands of raising children were now upended in those nations that embraced artificial contraception. The pill is often characterized as a great advancement for women but in truth all human beings were advanced as women were freed to increasingly contribute their talents and intellect fully to the great research and economic challenges of their eras.

For this reason alone, Carl Djerassi should be heralded as an advocate for human rights and economic development.

Dr. Djerassi came to the United States with his mother as a refugee from a Europe increasingly dominated by Nazi Germany. After writing to Eleanor Roosevelt about his impoverished state, but inquiring mind, she offered him a scholarship. It was a fateful offer for Carl Djerassi and for human beings globally. Dr. Djerassi graduated *summa cum laude* from Kenyon College before his 19th birthday and then earned his doctorate in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin. He subsequently worked for or founded several private companies, including early work for Syntex, the company that commercialized norethindrone into the pill. His research was also key to the synthesizing of antihistamines and cortisone.

After positions at a number of other universities, Dr. Djerassi moved to Stanford where he conducted research and taught for decades. He was the ultimate professor who, because of his extraordinarily high standards, did not suffer fools gladly. Stanford University indicated that Dr. Djerassi published more than 1,200 scientific papers, and made early and important contributions in many areas of chemistry, including the use of analytical tools of chemistry such as mass spectrometry, magnetic circular dichroism and optical rotary dispersion. Those he mentored remarked on his willingness to look after their careers despite an extraordinary schedule that at times committed him to travelling 100,000 miles per year. In 1973, Dr. Djerassi was awarded the National Medal of Science by President Nixon. Stanford noted that he was the only awardee to simultaneously be given that award by the President while also being on Nixon's enemies list.

In our region, Carl Djerassi was also known for his extraordinary love of art, poetry, and his books of "science-in-fiction." According to those who knew him well, his short stories, novels and plays provided unusual detail about the lives and difficult choices of scientists who bear the burdens of historic discoveries.

Mr. Speaker, some individuals leave as their legacy an endowment or a building or fond memories of a life well lived. At least from my perspective, Carl Djerassi left us all something that is much more valuable than any of these gifts: He gave us options in life. Thanks to Carl Djerassi, we can choose to live as human beings have lived for tens of thousands of years or we can acknowledge that human beings may seek a different path—one of self-determination and thus personal responsibility to leave the world a better place than when we entered it. Carl Djerassi left the world a much better place than when he entered it, having explored the greatest secrets of chemistry and some of the most difficult moral dilemmas confronted by inquiring minds. He was truly a man for all ages, and we can only hope that his insights passed down through these past decades will endure and be improved upon for decades yet to come.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT LEE FINK FOR HIS SERVICE

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Lee Fink for his 50 years of dedicated service to the field of Emergency Medical Services. Bob's EMS career began when he was just 12 years old, when he witnessed an 8 year old unconscious boy being pulled from a public swimming pool. The boy was placed upon the ground, but no one rendered aid to him. This was before CPR, but as a Sea Scout, Bob was taught the Holger-Nielson back pressure arm lift, which saved the boy's life.

This is what drove Bob to become a life-guard, a career he officially began at 16 when he took his first CPR and first aid classes through the City of New York. A few years later, Bob was granted a waiver by the Mayor of New York City to become the first lay person to be a CPR instructor. After graduating college, Bob had a successful 20 year career promoting health and fitness as a Physical Education teacher in Bedford Stuyvesant. In 1977, Bob became an EMT and then in 1979, he became a Critical Care EMT. A few years later, in 1988, Bob was honored with the New York State Advanced Medical Technician of the year. This honor was bestowed upon him for saving the life of a 12 year old boy who was submerged in the waters of Lake Ronkonkoma.

Bob went on to become an EMT instructor in 1996, and since then, he has prepared thousands of students to become EMT's and Critical Care EMT's. At the age of 60, Bob returned to school yet again to become a Paramedic as one of the oldest students in his class at St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center.

To this day, Bob remains dedicated to serving the public, continuing to volunteer and serve his community as a mentor and a Paramedic. Today, I thank and congratulate Bob for his 50 years of dedication and service.

CARLY BAUER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Carly Bauer for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Carly Bauer is a 12th grader at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Carly Bauer is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Carly Bauer for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedi-

cation and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL GRAVES, FAIA

HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Graves, FAIA, a prominent and respected architect, who passed away last Thursday March 12, 2015 at the age of 80 at his home in Princeton, NJ.

Mr. Graves was born in Indianapolis on July 9, 1934. Upon graduating from Broad Ripple High School in 1952, he went on to pursue a bachelor's degree in architecture at the University of Cincinnati. Enamored with design, Mr. Graves went on to obtain a masters degree in architecture from Harvard University, before teaching at Princeton University as the Robert Schirmer Professor of Architecture, Emeritus, a pursuit that would turn into a 40-year career.

While at Princeton, Mr. Graves was an inspiring professor who taught architectural design and theory to thousands of undergraduate and graduate architecture students, as well as extending his reach beyond Princeton through serving as guest lecturer at over 1,000 public conferences.

In 1964, Mr. Graves founded his own firm, now called Michael Graves Architecture & Design or MGA&D. in Princeton, NJ. Since its establishment, Mr. Graves has been tasked with designing everything from office buildings, resorts and retail stores, to hospitals, monuments and university buildings. Renowned across the country as one of the New York Five, a group that redefined modernism in architecture, Mr. Graves became among the most celebrated of the postmodernist architects in the 1980's.

Mr. Graves designed more than 350 buildings around the world. Among his most notable projects are the Netherlands Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport in The Hague, the Walt Disney Co. corporate headquarters in Burbank, CA, the NCAA Hall of Champions, the Newark Museum, and an innovative design scaffolding for the Washington Monument Restoration here in our nation's capital. He and his firm have designed over 2,500 products for manufacturers and retailers. Mr. Graves received more than 300 awards and citations, including the National Medal of Arts presented by President Bill Clinton in 1999 for his exceptional achievements in architecture, design and education. In 2001, he was awarded the Gold Medal from the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the highest honor the AIA bestows on an individual whose body of work has had a lasting influence on the theory and practice of architecture.

Mr. Graves received 14 honorary degrees from various universities, including Rutgers, NJIT, Emory University, the University of Virginia, and the University of Miami. In his most recent project, Mr. Graves established the Michael Graves School of Architecture at Kean University in New Jersey and Wenzou-Kean University in China, where his architectural legacy will continue for generations to come.

As a United States Congressman, it is my great honor to recognize and commemorate

the life of Michael Graves. I am proud to say that he was from my home state—truly his impact was felt in New Jersey and throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Mr. Graves' coworkers, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing Mr. Michael Graves.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF THE "THE BORINQUENEERS"

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the brave individuals listed below for their service in the U.S. Army's 65th Infantry Regiment, an all-volunteer Puerto Rican unit known as "the Borinqueneers." This exceptional group of veterans has made Central Florida their home. As their representative, it is my honor to recognize each one of them for their service to our nation.

Aida I. Rodriguez, Andre Vergara, Andres Medina, Angel L. Mendoza, Anibal Albertorio, Carlos Diaz-Husband, Carlos Guffain, Carlos Soya, Celio Freytes Melendez, David Flores Mendez, Despian Quilles, Diego Melendez, Edwin Aviles, Efrain Diaz, Enrique De Jesus.

Enrique Quiñones, Epifanio Agosto, Eriberto DeJesus, Esteban Alejandro, Felipe Ramos Gonzalez, Feliz Lopez, Ferdinand Lopez, Francisco Mendez Lugo, Francisco Torregoza, German R. Colon, Gilberto Ramirez, Gisele Ayala-Granddaughter, Hector M. Perez, Jesus Asencio, Jose A. Feria.

Jose Alujo, Jose Angel Colon, José Ángel Ramirez, Jose Mercado Pacheco, Jose Semidey, Jose Troche, Juan B. Melendez Rodriguez, Juan Bautista, Juan Ramos Flores, Leonardo Justiniano, Leonardo Zeno, Luis F. Suarez, Luis Martinez, Luis Muñoz, Luis Ramirez.

Luis Sabater, Marcia Mojica, Moises Rivera, Narcisco Villot, Nelson Gonzalez, Nestali Franco Baez, Nicolas Ayala, Osvaldo Alvarado, Osvaldo Rivera, Pedro Martinez, Rafael Donis, Rafael Gonzalez, Rafael Lopez Machado, Rafael Martinez Negron.

Ramon Mendez, Raul Aldarondo Galdan, Raul E. Reyes Castaneira, Raymond Medina, Richard Acosta Guerreo, Ruben Aquino, Samuel Collazo, Santiago Villafañe, Victor M. Rosario, Victor Mesias, Victor Ortiz, Victor Roldan, Wilfredo Lopez.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to honor these members of the 65th Infantry Regiment for their exceptional service to our nation.

HONORING AUSTIN CONWAY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Austin Conway. Austin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Austin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Austin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Austin has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Austin Conway for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF SUPERMARKET TAX CREDIT FOR UNDERSERVED AREAS ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Supermarket Tax Credit for Underserved Areas Act, which I introduced earlier today. If enacted, this bill would provide tax incentives for the establishment of supermarkets in urban and rural areas without access to fresh food.

It is hard to believe, but more than 23 million Americans, including many residents in my hometown of Memphis, Tennessee, live in communities that lack access to fresh food. I believe that is simply unacceptable in a nation as great as ours.

No American should have to live in a so-called, "food desert." According to the Department of Agriculture, a "food desert" is a low income neighborhood that lacks grocery stores within a 1 mile proximity for urban residents and 10 miles for rural residents. Many families in these neighborhoods face transportation challenges and rely on corner convenience stores that often stock processed snack products (potato chips, soft drinks, and candy) rather than fresh meat and produce. Studies have shown that access to healthy food choices can help prevent many diet-related illnesses, including diabetes, obesity, hypertension, heart disease and digestive diseases.

That is why I introduced Supermarket Tax Credit for Underserved Areas Act. This legislation seeks to reduce food deserts, create jobs and boost local economies by increasing the rehabilitation tax credit for supermarkets that open stores in food desert communities. The bill would also increase the work employment tax credit for supermarkets that hire disadvantaged youth, community residents, veterans and ex-felons. Finally, Supermarket Tax Credit for Underserved Areas Act would provide a tax credit for supermarkets that purchase their fresh fruits and vegetables from local growers.

I urge my colleagues to support this much needed legislation.

CRUZ GARCIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cruz Garcia

for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Cruz Garcia is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cruz Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Cruz Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 24

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States Middle East policy.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine waters of the United States, focusing on stakeholder perspectives on the impacts of the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule.

SD-106

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the regulatory regime for regional banks.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security

To hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on performance, not prescription.

SR-253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine management reforms to improve forest health

and socioeconomic opportunities on the nation's forest system.

SD-366

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine continuing America's leadership, focusing on advancing research and development for patients.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine securing the border, focusing on assessing the impact of transnational crime.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Sally Quillian Yates, of Georgia, to be Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Judiciary.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment

To hold hearings to examine capital formation and reducing small business burdens.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security

To hold hearings to examine unmanned aircraft systems, focusing on key considerations regarding safety, innovation, economic impact, and privacy.

SR-253

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Veterans Choice Act, focusing on exploring the distance criteria.

SR-418

MARCH 25

9 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Defense Health Program.

SD-192

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on SeaPower

To hold hearings to examine Navy and Marine Corps aviation programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

2 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine securing the border, focusing on understanding and addressing the root causes of Central American migration to the United States.

SD-342

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Paul A. Folmsbee, of Oklahoma, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mali, Mary Catherine Phee, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan, and Cassandra Q. Butts, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the fight against Alzheimer's disease, focusing on a treatment by 2025.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold hearings to examine the current state of readiness of U.S. forces in review of the Defense Authorization Re-

quest for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

MARCH 26

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Central Command, U.S. Africa Command and U.S. Special Operations Command programs and budget in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.

SD-G50

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's Quadrennial Energy Review.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine securing the border, focusing on defining the current population living in the shadows and addressing future flows.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

To hold hearings to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222